SUGGESTED KEY QUESTIONS FOR
THE RTAC TO ADDRESS

California's strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emission from passenger cars includes three elements: vehicle technologies, low-carbon fuel technologies, and reduced vehicle use through changed land use patterns and improved transportation. In the target setting process spelled out in SB 375, ARB is to consider greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies underway to implement AB 32. Since ARB adopts the State's vehicle and fuel technologies regulations, it currently has the tools and methods for considering these strategies in the target-setting process. Therefore, apart from those, ARB needs the RTAC's recommendations on the factors and methodologies for setting targets that relate directly to passenger vehicle use. The following six questions form a suggested framework for the RTAC to focus its efforts on vehicle-use related factors and methodologies.

1. What are the key factors that influence passenger vehicle use, including land use, the transportation system, the price of travel, and others?

2. What are the factors that affect the magnitude of the change in passenger vehicle use that is achievable? This includes ones that cities, counties, and MPOs can control, such as land use decisions, transportation investment, and pricing and other transportation strategies, and those they cannot, such as demographic trends, consumer housing preferences, market economics for development products, the price of gas, and others.

3. What are acceptable standards for data quality and modeling tools for implementing various methodologies for processing the factors into targets? How fast can regions with current data and modeling limitations improve their tools? What is the cost to make those improvements? Can any of these improvements be made in time to meet the first round of targets? In the interim, what ancillary tools can be brought to bear?

4. How should passenger vehicle trips and goods movement trips that cross regional boundaries be incorporated into targets?

5. What metric(s) should be used to express regional targets? For example, should the metric(s) be per capita or total VMT for a region? Should they be changes from current conditions or from future year baselines? How should the metric(s) account for differences between regions, e.g. growth rates, incomes, current jobs-housing balance? Is it important that the metric(s) represent real and permanent reductions?

6. How can the various methods be evaluated to see if they meet the goal of setting the most ambitious achievable targets?

ARB   **1/29/2009**